

# City of Newburgh

## Press Release

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### Mayor Kennedy Joins Mayors Against Illegal Guns

Mayor Judy Kennedy has announced her membership in Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a national, bipartisan coalition of more than 600 mayors working to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. The Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition is pushing Congress to close deadly loopholes and give law enforcement agencies the tools they need to stop gun trafficking.

“We have to fight this battle on all fronts,” said Mayor Kennedy. “That means greater enforcement and awareness at the local level. At the same time, we need cooperation from Washington.”

The coalition strongly supports the Fix Gun Checks Act (S. 436 / H.R. 1781), a bill pending in Congress that would require background checks for all gun sales and improve the reporting of records into the FBI’s do-not-sell database. The bill was introduced by Senator Chuck Schumer and Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, both from New York. It is co-sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and 14 members of the state’s delegation in the U.S. House.

“Licensed gun dealers must run background checks on all potential buyers,” said Mayor Kennedy. “Unfortunately, in states like Virginia and Florida, criminals can get around the background check system by purchasing from private sellers who set up shop at gun shows and over the internet.”

Virginia and Florida are the top sources of out-of-state guns recovered in New York crimes, according to the latest available data from the federal government.

“Easy access to illegal guns down South is helping to fuel the gang violence right here in Newburgh,” said Mayor Kennedy. “As a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, I will make sure our Congressional representatives understand the impact of weak gun laws on local communities.”

In February, Newburgh was also selected to receive anti-violence funding from the State of New York.